

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A communication network system comprising:

a plurality of communication terminals, each comprising: having

a first transmitting device; and

a first receiving device,

the communication terminals connected via a transmission channel, information being transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting device and said first receiving device, at least two of said communication terminals being used as relay ~~communication~~ terminals, each of said relay ~~communication~~ terminals comprising:

a second transmitting device configured to perform only one-to-one communication;

a second receiving device configured to perform only one-to-one communication;

a received-information relay device configured to transmit information received from said first receiving device to said second transmitting device, the received-information relay device configured to transmit ~~and for transmitting~~ information received from said second receiving device to said first transmitting device;

a relay-terminal-information transmitting device configured to transmit relay terminal information to said first transmitting device, the relay terminal information comprising terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services ~~as relay terminal information; and~~

a relay terminal storage device configured to store the terminal identification information of said relay terminal ~~and, terminal identification information of~~ another relay

terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals, which are acquired from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving device; and
a changing device,

wherein, ~~upon discontinuing when the relay terminal which is providing the relay services discontinues~~ the relay services ~~by the relay terminal which is providing the relay services,~~ the changing device refers to the relay terminal storage device to determine whether an available relay terminal is present or absent ~~the presence or the absence of an available relay terminal is determined by referring to said relay terminal storage device,~~ and
if the changing device determines that there is an available relay terminal, the changing device provides an instruction ~~is provided~~ to the terminal which is receiving the relay services to change the available relay terminal.

2. (Previously Presented): A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein said relay-terminal-information transmitting device is configured to transmit the relay terminal information regularly.

3. (Currently Amended): A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein, ~~upon~~ when the relay terminal discontinues ~~discontinuing~~ the relay services ~~by the relay terminal,~~ the terminal which is receiving the relay services changes from the relay terminal to a subsequent the available relay terminal, and the subsequent available relay terminal then stores received information addressed to the terminal which is receiving the relay services until a connection is established ~~with~~ between the available relay terminal and the terminal which is receiving the relay services.

4. (Currently Amended): A communication network system comprising:

a plurality of communication terminals, each comprising: having
 a first transmitting device; and
 a first receiving device,
the communication terminals connected via a transmission channel, information being transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting device and said first receiving device, at least one of said communication terminals being used as a central relay ~~communication~~ terminal, and at least one of said communication terminals being used as a relay communication terminal, said relay ~~communication~~ terminal comprising:

 a second transmitting device configured to perform only one-to-one communication;
 a second receiving device configured to perform only one-to-one communication;
 a first received-information relay device configured to transmit information received from said first receiving device to said second transmitting device, the first received-information relay device configured and to transmit information received from said second receiving device to said first transmitting device; and

 a relay-terminal-information transmitting device configured to transmit relay terminal information to said first transmitting device, the relay terminal information comprising terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services as ~~relay terminal information,~~

said central relay ~~communication~~ terminal comprising:

 a relay-terminal storage device configured to store terminal identification information of said relay terminal, terminal identification information of and another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals, which are acquired from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving device; and

a second received-information relay device,

wherein when the central relay terminal receives from a terminal a request to provide the relay services, the second received-information relay device refers to the relay-terminal storage device to obtain terminal identification information of an available relay terminal and transmits the obtained terminal identification information of the available relay terminal to the terminal which makes the request thereby designating an available relay terminal to a terminal which makes a request to provide the relay services.

5. (Currently Amended): A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein each relay terminal comprises at least two of said first transmitting device and at least two of said first receiving device ~~are provided~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein each relay terminal comprises at least two of said second transmitting device and at least two of said second receiving device ~~are provided~~.

7. (Currently Amended): A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein each relay terminal comprises at least two of said first transmitting device, ~~and~~ at least two of said first receiving device ~~are provided~~, ~~and~~ at least two of said second transmitting device and at least two of said second receiving device ~~are provided~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A communication network system comprising:
a ~~plurality of communication terminals~~ terminal comprising; ~~each having~~
 a said first transmitting device; and
 a said first receiving device;

a plurality of relay terminals, the communication terminal and the relay terminals
connected to each other via a transmission channel, the communication terminal transmitting
and receiving information to and from the transmission channel ~~being transmitted and~~
~~received among said communication terminals~~ through said first transmitting device ~~and said~~
~~first receiving device, at least two of said communication terminals being used as relay~~
~~communication terminals~~, each of said relay ~~communication~~ terminals comprising:

a second transmitting device configured to perform only one-to-one ~~type~~
communication;

a second receiving device configured to perform only one-to-one ~~type~~
communication;

a third transmitting device configured to perform only one-to-N communication;

a third receiving device configured to perform only one-to-N communication, each of
the relay terminals transmitting and receiving information to and from the transmission
channel through the third transmitting device and the third receiving device;

a received-information relay device configured to transmit information received from
said third ~~first~~ receiving device to said second transmitting device, the received-information
relay device configured to transmit and to said third transmitting device, and for transmitting
information received from said second receiving device to said third ~~first~~ transmitting device
~~and to said third transmitting device, and for transmitting information received from said~~
~~third receiving device to said first transmitting device and to said second transmitting device;~~

a relay-terminal-information transmitting device configured to transmit relay terminal
information to said third ~~first~~ transmitting device, the relay terminal information comprising
terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification
information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services ~~as relay~~
~~terminal information; and~~

a relay terminal storage device configured to store the terminal identification information of said relay terminal, terminal identification information of ~~and~~ another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals, which are acquired from the relay terminal information received from said third ~~first~~ receiving device; and

a changing device,

wherein, ~~upon discontinuing~~ when the relay terminal which is providing the relay services discontinues the relay services ~~by the relay terminal which is providing the relay services,~~ the changing device refers to the relay terminal storage device to determine whether an available relay terminal is present or absent ~~the presence or the absence of an available relay terminal is determined by referring to said relay terminal storage device,~~ and

if the changing device determines that there is an available relay terminal, the changing device provides an instruction ~~is provided~~ to the terminal which is receiving the relay services to change the available relay terminal.

9. (Currently Amended): A relay terminal for use in a communication network system, which comprises a plurality of communication terminals, each of the communication terminals comprising: having

a ~~said~~ first transmitting device; and

a ~~said~~ first receiving device,

the communication terminals connected via a transmission channel, information being transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting device and said first receiving device, one of said communication terminals being used as said relay terminal, said relay terminal comprising:

a second transmitting device ~~means~~ configured to perform only one-to-one communication;

a second receiving device configured to perform only one-to-one communication;
a received-information relay device configured to transmit information received from said first receiving device to said second transmitting device, and the received-information relay device configured to transmit information received from said second receiving device to said first transmitting device;

a relay-terminal-information transmitting device configured to relay terminal information to said first transmitting device, the terminal information comprising terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services ~~as relay terminal information~~; and

a relay terminal storage device configured to store the terminal identification information of said relay terminal, ~~and~~ terminal identification information of another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals, which are acquired from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving device; and

a changing device,

wherein, ~~upon discontinuing~~ when the relay terminal which is providing the relay services discontinues the relay services ~~by the relay terminal which is providing the relay services,~~ the changing device refers to the relay terminal storage device to determine whether an available relay terminal is present or absent ~~the presence or the absence of an available relay terminal is determined by referring to said relay terminal storage device,~~ and if the changing device determines that there is an available relay terminal, the changing device provides an instruction ~~is provided~~ to the terminal which is receiving the relay services to change the available relay terminal.